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Volume 2 Chapter 1

Chapter 7

SFX. CHATTER SX
PRINCIPAL,
THANKS FOR AGREEING TO WATCH OUR PERFORMANCE
PLEASE ENJOY KIKYUU'S PERFOR-MANCE TODAY!
THE THEME IS "VOYAGE"!

SFX SQUEEZE
ギュッ
ギュッ
I can do this!!
Everyone's by my side as well!
It's all right!
YOU THERE.
lift

SFX THUMP
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WAS SO CONFIDENT THE LAST TIME?
YE-YES?
COME ALL THE WAY TO THE FRONT THEN.

SFX: NERVOUS
No way!
AL-ALL RIGHT!
Even if I dance incorrectly, I won't even know myself...
Being in front means I won't be able to follow the others!
What?
Since I can't back out now, I'll just have to try my best!
I'm doomed!
It's over...
Over...
EVEN IF YOU FAIL, IT'S ALL RIGHT!
NATSUME-CHAN!
SFX: SLAP

JUST REMEMBER TO SMILE!
SAITOU-SAN
THAT'S RIGHT! JUST DO YOUR BEST!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, YOU'LL BE FINE!
EVERY-ONE
SFX: TAP TAP
SFX: PAT
ポ
HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT, NA-TSUME.

YEAH!
EVERYONE, KEEP THAT SMILE ON YOUR FACE, K?
LET'S GO!

SFX: WHOOOSH
KIKYUU!

Pa!
1, 2, 3, 4,
I'll need to make a turn here!
Pa!
Pa!
5, 6, 7, 8
I did it!
SFX WHOOSH

♪
♪
♪
♬
♪
All right!
WSSH
WSSH
It starts as
WSSH
WSSH
a typhoon
in the sea

SFX: SLASH
He appeared, just like a storm
Hey, Yuudai...
Actually, that time you did that to let me assimilate into class more easily, right?
I finally understand now.

SFX: STEP
Arriving in a class full of unfamiliar faces,
If I had to open that door alone,
HAA
HAA
I would surely have been at a loss of what to do.
SFX: SHUDDER
HAA
HAA
I found the signpost
As if sucked into the whirlpool that was you...
In the darkness,

THE LIGHT!
IN TOSA... IN KOUCHI ... ♪
SFX: CLAP 2X
ON THE HARIMAYA BRIDGE... ♪
The reason why this dance troupe is so excellent,
is because every troupe member is always thinking of each other.

T/N: TOSA IS THE PREVIOUS NAME OF THE CURRENTLY KNOWN KOUCHI PROVINCE IN SHIKOKU. WHICH IS WHERE OUR PEAKEST MANGA IS BASED IN! THE HARIMAYA BRIDGE IS AN ACTUAL LANDMARK IN KOCHI AND IS THE SCENE OF KOCHI'S MOST FAMOUS LOVE AFFAIR BETWEEN THIS PAIR OF STAR-CROSSED LOVERS. THE STORY HAS BEEN IMMORTALISED IN THE LYRICS OF THIS YOSAKOI FESTIVAL SONG.

"Like this, Natsume has become..."
"Natsume is..."
Calling out to me, treating me to strawberries.
Even dancing their hearts out for a stranger like me.
And training together with me...
"our family."
Thank you
Thank you so much.

Thank you all for inviting me!
Daybreak!
Come!

SFX: SLASH
I can feel all the strength that everyone has given me!

pant
pant
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL ENDING
It has ended...

YOU DID IT, NATSUME!
SFX: PINCH
SFX: WAAAAAH
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE ABLE TO DANCE SO WELL FOR YOUR FIRST TIME!
UGH
I- I'M REALLY HAPPY BUT THE TEARS.
YOU DID GREAT!
I...
YUUDAI

REALLY LIKE YOSAKOI.
NATSUME-CHAN! LET'S TAKE A PHOTO, 'K?' PHOTO!
OKAY.

THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE.
パン
パン
SFX: CLAP 3X

I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE FIRST
I'LL LET YOU KNOW ABOUT THE VERDICT ON MONDAY.
COME FIND ME IN THE OFFICE IN THE MORNING.
NO PROBLEM! WE'LL BE FINE!
YE-YEAH, EVERYONE'S ALREADY GIVEN THEIR ALL!
BUT, WE'VE DONE OUR BEST RIGHT!
DARN... I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL.
EVERYONE SUDDENLY LOSING THEIR COMPOSURE.
...BECAUSE IT WAS FUN DANCING TOGETHER WITH NATSUME.
MAYU SMILED?
I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE THAT!
YUP
...I SMILED?
...IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN MAYU SMILE
SFX: BLUSH

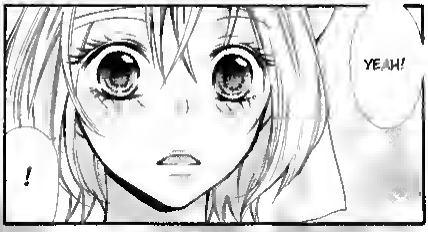
高知よさこい祭り
—本祭—

光の速さで原稿を描きあげ、高知よさこい祭りへ行って来ました！！！

描きたいことはたくさんあるのですが…見てきたことや感じたことは本編で描きたいと思います！
というわけで…ここではちょっとした旅行記など。

当手前で座って見ていたら、お隣にいたおじいさんがチームの振指をしてくれました（笑）

皆さん本当に親切で…
観客のマナーもよくて、町にゴミが落ちてなくて、よさこい以外にも至る所で感動して帰ってきました。
あと食べ物がおいしかった！高知ステキ！！！



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YUUDAI!
TADA!!
Happy Birthday
THIS IS A CAKE FROM IIS AND IT'S LADIES! ALSO AS A CELEBRATION FOR OUR SUCCESSFUL SHOWCASE!
Let's have a drink!
REALLY? THANKS. YA'LL JUST WANT TO USE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DRINK, RIGHT?
No way
HOW... HOW COME I DIDN'T HEAR OF THIS?!
BECAUSE NO ONE TOLD YOU.
IF WE HAD TOLD YOU,
YOU'D PROBABLY FRET OVER THE PRESENT AND WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON PRACTICING, RIGHT?
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, BUT...
WAAA!

SFX: KOLL 4X
So I've got no choice but to do it on my own.
But it's impossible here.
If I was in Tokyo, I could get a present from a street immediately.
SFX: THUMP
A ho- home-made biscuit, huh?
OUT!
Mould.. mould.
This is for showing my gratitude towards all the help he's given me. So it's nothing special!
I'm not intending to use this to win his good favour?

青桐

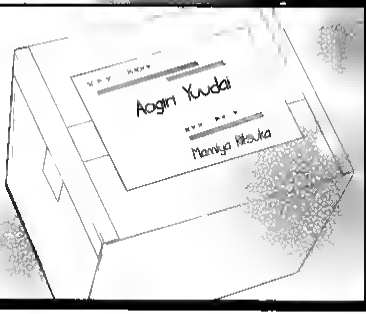
ISN'T IT SUSPICIOUS?
SHE ASKED FOR YUUDAI AND WHO KNOWS WHERE THE BOTH OF THEM WENT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...
I SEE

EH?
SANO-SAN CAME BY?

LOOK! HE'S ALSO RECEIVED SOMETHING FROM ANOTHER GIRL!
CAN IT BE THAT OUR YUUDAI IS FINALLY HAVING SOME LOVE LUCK?!

EI-KUN, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
ｸﾌﾌﾌ
SFX: EXCITED

Ritsuka



Shouju Sense

Great, looks like he quite likes it...
EVEN THOUGH THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL ME ALL THE TIME, BUT IT'S STILL MEAN!
MEA-NIE!
!!
SO THIS MONKEY IS ME, RIGHT?
YU- YUP!
Ah
IS THAT MONKEY ME TOO?
Kyaaa!
IT ..
IT WAS MADE BY MY SISTER
YEAH
HEH WHY ME?
I'm starting to feel embarrassed!

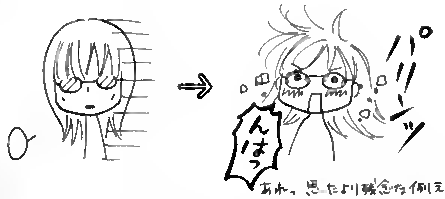
I'LL BE GOING BACK
I DON'T KNOW
After all, the person Yuudai likes is Ritsuka...
It'll become awkward between us...
If I let Yuudai know that I like him...
Ah... aaahh ...
The hand! My hand!
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK ...
I better not let him know after all...
WAIT, NATSUME.
FROG FLY

SFX SHOCK
カッ
SO-SORRY!
FROG
Let's go
FROG FLY
WHA WHAT'S GOING ON?
THIS FEELS REALLY WEIRD!

Weird?!
Did he say weird!
Ah.
Could he have realised my feelings?!
ガガーン
SFX: THUMP 2X
SFX IMPACT
SFX THUMP

8月はたくさんよさこい祭りを見ることが出来て、本当に楽しかったです！
アクティブ七島！！
漫画家になって7年になりますが、大学卒業後は漫画1本になり、外に出ること自体が稀、という生活だったので、この取材の日々は私にとって革命的な出来事でありました。
よさこいが私を外へ引っ張り出してくれました！ありがとうありがとう。

よさこいには助けられてばかりです。
私が初めてよさこい祭りを見たのは、ちょうど自分が元気をなくしていたときでした。当時に逃亡したいくらいの気持ちで・・・！
目に映るもの全てが色を失い、グレーに見えていたという。
そんな中、視界に飛び込んできた元気なよさこいの踊り、鮮やかな衣装、そして、目が覚めるような爆音！あのときの衝撃といったら。
絵で描くとこうです。



私が見た地元のよさこい踊りは、今にして振えば小さなお祭りでしたが、自分の世界に色が戻るのには十分でした。

生きていくのがつらくなっちゃった子供たちに、疲れてしまった大人の皆さんに、ぜひよさこいを見てほしいなって恥いながらナツメキを捧いています。
鳴り子の皆さんが元気をくれるよ！！！
私がよさこいに救われたように、どうかどうか、日本中が元気になりますように。